

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 01253 090954Z

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ACTION EA-06

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FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5933

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1253

LIMDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJECT: FUNERAL OBSERVANCES FOR CHU TEH

REF: PEKING 1238

BEGIN SUMMARY. THE FAREWELL TO CHU TEH HAS BEEN MARKED BY DIGNITY, LITTLE EMOTION, AND IN LATER STAGES HIGHLY VISIBLE BUT UNOPPRESSIVE PUBLIC SECURITY CONTROLS. THERE IS A SENSE THAT CHU'S FUNERALS IS BUT A MODEST DRESS REHEARSAL FOR THE MORE SIGNIFICANT EVENT TO COME  
END SUMMARY.

1. OFFICIAL MEMORIAL OBSERVANCES FOR CHU TEH, LIKE THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS PASSING, HAVE BEEN HANDLED IN DIGNIFIED BUT UNDERSTATED FASHION.

THE CHINESE LEADERSHIP PAID ITS LAST RESPECTS AT THE CAPITAL HOSPITAL AND ACCOMPANIED THE REMAINS TO THE PEKING CREMATORIUM ON THE AFTERNOON OF JULY 8. ANOTHER CARAVAN OF OFFICIAL LIMOUSINES SSCORTED THE REMAINS TO THE WORKER'S PALACE OF CULTURE OFF TIENANMEN SQUARE AROUND 10 PM.

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PAGE 02 PEKING 01253 090954Z

2. ALTHOUGH NONE OF THESE EVENTS HAD BEEN ANNOUNCED IN THE OFFICIAL

SCENARIO, THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE TURNED OUT -- MORE IN CURIOSITY THAN BEREAVEMENT TO ALL APPEARANCES -- ALONG THE ROUTE TO WITNESS SILENTLY THE PROCEEDINGS. SECURITY AND CROWD CONTROL MEASURES WERE CONSPICUOUS AND EFFICIENT: HUNDREDS OF UNIFORMED POLICE AND PERSONNEL IN PLAINCLOTHES

-- PRESUMABLY MILITIA -- KEPT BACK THE ONLOOKERS ALONG CHANG AN STREET TO TIANANMEN. WHEN THE LEADERSHIP EXITED IN THEIR CARS FROM THE WORKERS PALACE ABOUT 11 PM, THE CROWDS DISPERSED WITH MINIMAL PRODDING FROM THE POLICE.

3. AMBASSADOR GATES LED A 12-MEMBER USLO DELEGATION TO SIGN THE MEMORIAL BOOK AND FILE BY CHU TEH'S REMAINS ON THE MORNING OF JULY 9. THE PRC LEADERSHIP RECEIVING LINE WHICH MET THE USLO DELEGATION CONSISTED OF VICE PREMIER

CHEN HSI-LIEN, NPC STANDING COMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN YAO LIEN-WEI, AND VICE FOREIGN MINISTER HAN NIEN-LUNG. DELEGATIONS ARRIVING

EARLIER HAD BEEN MET BY VICE PREMIER CHEN YUNG-KUEI, NPC STANDING COMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WU TEH, AND FOREIGN MINISTER CHIAO KUAN-HUA. APPROXIMATELY 10 MEMBERS OF THE BEREAVED FAMILY WERE ALSO PRESENT TO ACCEPT THE CONDOLENCES OF DELEGATIONS AND INDIVIDUAL MOURNERS.

4. WREATHS FROM POLITBURO MEMBERS, VICE PREMIERS (INCLUDING YU CHIU-LI, OUT OF SIGHT SINCE CHOU'S FUNERAL), MILITARY REGIONS, DEPARTMENTS OF THE PLA, AND DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS WERE PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED. BUT FEWER CHINESE MOURNERS AND FEWER WREATHS WERE IN EVIDENCE FOR THE AFFAIR THAN EVEN FOR THE KANG SHENG CEREMONY. THE DOMINANT EMOTION SEEMED ONE OF PRIDE RATHER THAN SORROW -- PRIDE IN THE REPUTATION OF CHU, IN THE FLAWLESS PREPARATIONS, IN THE NUMBER OF FOREIGNERS WHO CAME TO PAY LAST RESPECTS, AND PERHAPS IN THE MAJESTY OF THE OLD IMPERIAL SURROUNDINGS. IN OBVIOUS CONTRAST TO THE FUNERAL OF CHOU EN-LAI, TEARS FOR CHU WERE OBSERVED VERY INFREQUENTLY.

5. THE TIENAMEN MARTYR'S MONUMENT, WHERE THERE HAD BEEN WREATH-LAYING FOR CHOU IN JANUARY AND WHERE THE CHING MING WREATH-LAYING FOR CHOU SPARKED THE APRIL RIOT, REMAINS A SENSITIVE AREA. DESPITE THE SEEMING NONCHALANCE WITH WHICH THE CHINESE MASSES HAVE ACCEPTED

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PAGE 03 PEKING 01253 090954Z

CHU'S PASSING, THE POTENTIAL UTILIZATION OF CHU AS A SYMBOL -- HIS MODERATE LEANINGS AND OCCASIONAL PRINCIPLED OPPOSITION TO MAO ARE WELL-KNOWN -- IS PRESUMABLY APPRECIATED BY PRC AUTHORITIES. WITH THE IMAGE OF TENG HSIAO-PING AS CHINA'S IMRE NAGY NOW IMPLANTED, PRC AUTHORITIES DOUBTLESS SEE THE MARTYR'S MONUMENT AS A POTENTIAL CHINESE PETOFI SQUARE. INDEED, FRAGMENTS OF WALL POSTERS WERE SIGHTED AT THE MONUMENT AS RECENTLY AS THE DAWN HOURS OF JULY 1 BY AN EASTERN EUROPEAN DIPLOMAT. HENCE THE AREA HAS BEEN OPEN TO

THE PUBLIC BY DAY, BOT CHAINED OFF AND PATROLLED BY -13 UNIFORMED  
PLA GUARDS AFTER DUSK.

6. PEKING UNIVERSITY REPORTEDLY GOT NEWS OF CHU'S DEATH SOME  
HOURS BEFORE THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT -- WITH NO NOTABLE IMPACT ON  
THE STUDENT BODY. ANOTHER STORY HAS IT THAT A CHINESE CONFESSED  
THAT ON HEARING A FUNERAL DIRGE PLAYED ON PEKING RADIO HE STAYED  
TUNED FOR NEWS OF LIU PO-CHENG'S DEATH; UPON DISCOVERING THAT IT  
WAS CHU HE RETURNED TO HIS WORK.

7. BE THAT AS IT MAY, THE UNSPOKEN COMPARISON IN THE MOURNING OF CHU  
IS WITH WHAT CAN BE EXPECTED WHEN MAO GOES. THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS  
WIDELY INTERPRETS THE RELATIVELY LOW-KEY FAREWELL FOR CHU AS A DRESS  
REHEARSAL FOR THE MAIN EVENT, AS A CALCULATED ATTEMPT TO MAKE  
ARRANGEMENTS FOLLOWING THE IMMINENT DEMISE OF THE CHAIRMAN SEEM ALL  
THE MORE IMPRESSIVE BY COMPARISON.  
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